MARVEL

5

CATES • STEGMAN • BAGLEY • MAYER • DELL • MARTIN

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

FOR YEARS, THE SYMBIOTES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HAVE BEEN LEAVING TRACES OF GENETIC MATERIAL--CALLED CODICES--WITHIN THE SPINES OF THEIR HOSTS.

CLETUS KASADY, A.K.A. THE SYMBIOTIC SERIAL KILLER CALLED CARNAGE, HAS RESURFACED, LOOKING TO EXTRACT THE CODICES THROUGH BLOODY AND BRUTAL MEANS TO AWAKEN KNULL--GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES--AND SUMMON HIM TO EARTH.

SINCE LEARNING OF CARNAGE'S RETURN, EDDIE BROCK, A.K.A. VENOM, HAS WORKED TO DESTROY THE CODICES IN AS MANY PEOPLE AS HE CAN; THANKS TO A MACHINE DEVISED BY THE MAKER (AN EVIL REED RICHARDS FROM A PARALLEL UNIVERSE), HE'S BEEN ABLE TO DO JUST THAT.

BUT TIME WAS NOT ON THEIR SIDE.

AFTER BRUTALLY KILLING SEVERAL PAST SYMBIOTE HOSTS, CARNAGE TARGETED VENOM AND HIS ALLIES. WITH NO OTHER CHOICE, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BONDED TO THE HULK, BUT CARNAGE PROVED TOO POWERFUL EVEN FOR THE GAMMA GOLIATH AND STRIPPED HIM OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BEFORE ABSORBING IT FOR GOOD.

BUT THE MAKER'S MACHINE WAS NOT AS IT APPEARED; IT WAS STORING THE EXTRACTED CODICES INSTEAD OF DESTROYING THEM! THROUGH THE CHAOS, EDDIE WAS ABLE TO BREAK INTO THE MACHINE, REUNITING THE CODICES HELD WITHIN AND BONDING TO THEM.

NOW VENOM IS LEGION--AN AMALGAMATION OF DOZENS OF HOSTS, SYMBIOTES AND VOICES, ALL OF THEM SCREAMING THE SAME THING:

IT'S TIME TO STOP CARNAGE. ONCE AND FOR ALL.

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*WITH LOVE TO **STAN, STEVE, DAVID & TODD***

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RYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY.
LONG AGO...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE GOING TO DIE?

I MEAN, I'M HAPPY FOR THE COMPANY, BUT YOU KNOW THEY'RE BASICALLY FEEDING YOU TO ME, RIGHT?

LIKE A MOUSE TO A SNAKE, ISN'T THAT RIGHT, OFFICER? WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN? YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE PREGNANT WIFE AT HOME, AREN'T--

THAT'S ***ENOUGH,*** KASADY. YOU TWO PLAY NICE.

AFTER ALL...

CH-CHUNK

YOU'RE GONNA BE IN THIS CELL TOGETHER FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

HEH, SLEEP TIGHT, ***BROCK.***

I WANT THE BOTTOM BUNK.

I AIN'T HAVING YOU WHERE I CAN'T SEE YOU.

SMART. SMART. SMART.

MORE THAN THE LAST GUY IN HERE, AT LEAST. EARNED MY ELEVENTH LIFE SENTENCE ON THAT ONE.

NOW, DID HE JUST SAY ***BROCK?*** YOU WOULDN'T BE...

YEAH. EDDIE BROCK.

OH, OH, OH...I'VE ***HEARD*** OF YOU. YOU'RE THAT ***VENOM*** GUY!

YOU'RE LIKE ME! HOW FUN! MAYBE I WON'T KILL YOU! MAYBE WE COULD--

I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU. I DON'T SLAUGHTER INNOCENTS. I'M NOT INSANE.

AND I'M NOT ***SCARED*** OF YOU. NOW SHUT UP AND LET ME SLEEP.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO RUDE, YOU KNOW.

YOU AND ME...WE COULD BE FRIENDS.

IN FACT, I THINK YOU AND ME COULD HAVE A BRIGHT...

...BEAUTIFUL...

...FUTURE AHEAD OF US.

CRIM

HAHAHA!!!

IT'S ALL SO WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT, DADDY?! IT'S ALL HAPPENING!

CAN YOU HEAR HIM... BREATHING?! HE'S ALMOST AWAKE!

KRJMP

HE'S RIGHT.

HE'S ALMOST HERE! HAHA-- AGH!

SHUT UP AND DIE!

SINCE I ABSORBED THE CODICES, I CAN...I CAN ***SENSE*** THE HIVE.

NEVER...NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT. I CAN HEAR THEM ALL...

AGH!

I CAN HEAR THEM ***SCREAMING.***

YOU KNOW, WE CAN HEAR ***YOU*** TOO!

WH-WHAT?!

WE... ARE...

...EVERYWHERE!

HNNF!

BOOM

KRUNCH

I CAN SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF EVERY ONE OF MY HORDE, EDDIE...

...DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SEE?

"I CAN SEE ALL OF YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS CHOKING AND FALLING...

THERE'S TOO MANY, CAP!

HOLD 'EM BACK! WE JUST NEED TIME!

"...DROWNING IN RED.

AGHH! TIME FOR *WHAT?* IS THOR GONNA MAKE IT, OR...

"SUFFOCATING IN MY WAKE.

"YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, DON'T YOU?"

COME ON, EDDIE...WHERE ARE YOU?

I KILL YOU, AND I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED TO WAKE KNULL AND GRIND THIS WORLD TO A FINE RED MIST...

YOU CAN SEE HOW THIS ALL ENDS... I KNOW YOU CAN!

WHY FIGHT IT? JUST GIVE ME YOUR CODEX AND TOGETHER WE CAN RULE AT HIS--

CLETUS.

PLEASE... I'M BEGGING YOU...

FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE, SHUT THE @#$% UP.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR GOD. I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THIS.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'M TAKING MY SYMBIOTE BACK.

AND I'M PUTTING YOU BACK IN YOUR GRAVE.

"AND IF I WERE YOU, I'D TAKE A LOOK AT MY FRIENDS AGAIN.

NO WAY...

"BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET YOUR $%@# KICKED."

SORRY WE'RE LATE, CAP. STOPPED ON THE WAY TO PICK UP A FEW *FRIENDS.*

AGH! NO! NO, THEY CAN'T--

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CLETUS?!

WHUD

DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?!

KABOOM

KLUNK

OKAY... BOYS...DON'T WORRY...

ALL GOOD. HE'S--HE'S DOWN...

...YOU'RE...

...SAFE.

THUD

SURRP

RAGHHH!!!

IS HE--

NO, I THINK HE'S JUST ASLEEP.

EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY.

HAHAHA!

YOU DON'T SEE IT! HAHA! YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE!

I DON'T CARE! AS LONG AS I KILL YOU, YOU SON OF A--

WE JUST NEED TO FIND MY BROTHER AND GET OUT OF--

DYLAN, LOOK!

HAHA... YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE YOUR LITTLE BOY!

...WHAT?

THAT THING IS STILL ALIVE!

GET BEHIND ME, NORMIE!

SNAP

AGHH! DYLAN, NO!

YOU KNOW WHAT?

I HATE ALL THIS SYMBIOTE @#$%!

DYLAN...WHAT WAS THAT? DID YOU DO THAT?

HOW DID YOU--

I...

I...

I DON'T--

DYLAN!

WAKE UP! WE HAVE TO--

AGH!

HA HA! IT'S OVER, DADDY!

LITTLE DYLAN IS THE LAST PIECE!

HUAAGG!

NO! I WON'T LET YOU--

YOU... HEHE, YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?!

YOU'VE ALREADY LOST!

BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, WE ALMOST HAVE ENOUGH CODICES TO JOIN THE HIVE AND AWAKEN KNULL!

I KILL THE BOY, I TAKE HIS CODEX...MAYBE THAT'S ENOUGH?! MAYBE THEN I WAKE UP OUR GOD?! I'M WILLING TO TAKE THAT BET!

BUT IF YOU KILL ME TO PROTECT HIM, IF YOU TAKE YOUR SYMBIOTE BACK...YOU COMPLETE THE CIRCLE.

YOU RECONNECT TO THE HIVE

AND YOU WAKE UP GRANDPA!

YOU...YOU *WANTED* THIS. WANTED ME TO GATHER THE OTHER PIECES FOR YOU...

YOU SEE?

I WIN, I WIN.

I LOSE... I WIN!

I KILL YOUR SON, OR YOU KILL THE WORLD!

FINE.

@#$%
THE
WORLD.

GET THE
HELL AWAY
FROM MY
SON!

RIP

RIP

RIP

AGHH!

WHAM!

EDDIE! NO, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

RAGGHH!

I CAN FEEL THEM, EDDIE!

THE... HIVE...

IT'S COMPLETE!

I CAN'T STOP IT!

EDDIE!

AGH!

EDDIE, IT'S HIM!

I CAN SEE HIM IN HIS CAGE! AND HE...

NO...

HE CAN HEAR US!

KNULL!

HE'S...

...AWAKE.

HE IS FREE.

AND HE IS COMING, EDDIE. FOR ALL OF US.

FOR EVERYTHING.

GOD...

GOD HELP US ALL.

PLEASE TALK TO ME.

EDDIE, PLEASE!

UGH...

DID WE...

DID WE WIN?

EDDIE?

EDDIE, ARE YOU THERE?

YEAH.

WE WON, PETE.

WHERE... IS NORMAN OSBORN?

I LEFT HIM...RIGHT THERE.

COULDN'T TELL YA.

SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR ***SPIDER-MAN.***

UGH. RIGHT. OKAY, I'LL GO CHECK IN WITH EVERYONE ELSE AND SEE WHAT NEEDS DOING.

WE GOOD?

YEAH. WE'RE GOOD, PETE.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. I OWE YOU. SERIOUSLY.

HEY...WHAT ARE...***WHATEVER-WE-ARE-TO-EACH-OTHER*** FOR? RIGHT?

RIGHT.

TAKE CARE OF THAT KID, YEAH?

COME ON, NORMIE, LET'S GO.

I'LL DO MY BEST...

HEY, BUDDY.
HEY.
YOU--
YEAH.
DID YOU SAY I WAS YOUR SON?

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

FINAL

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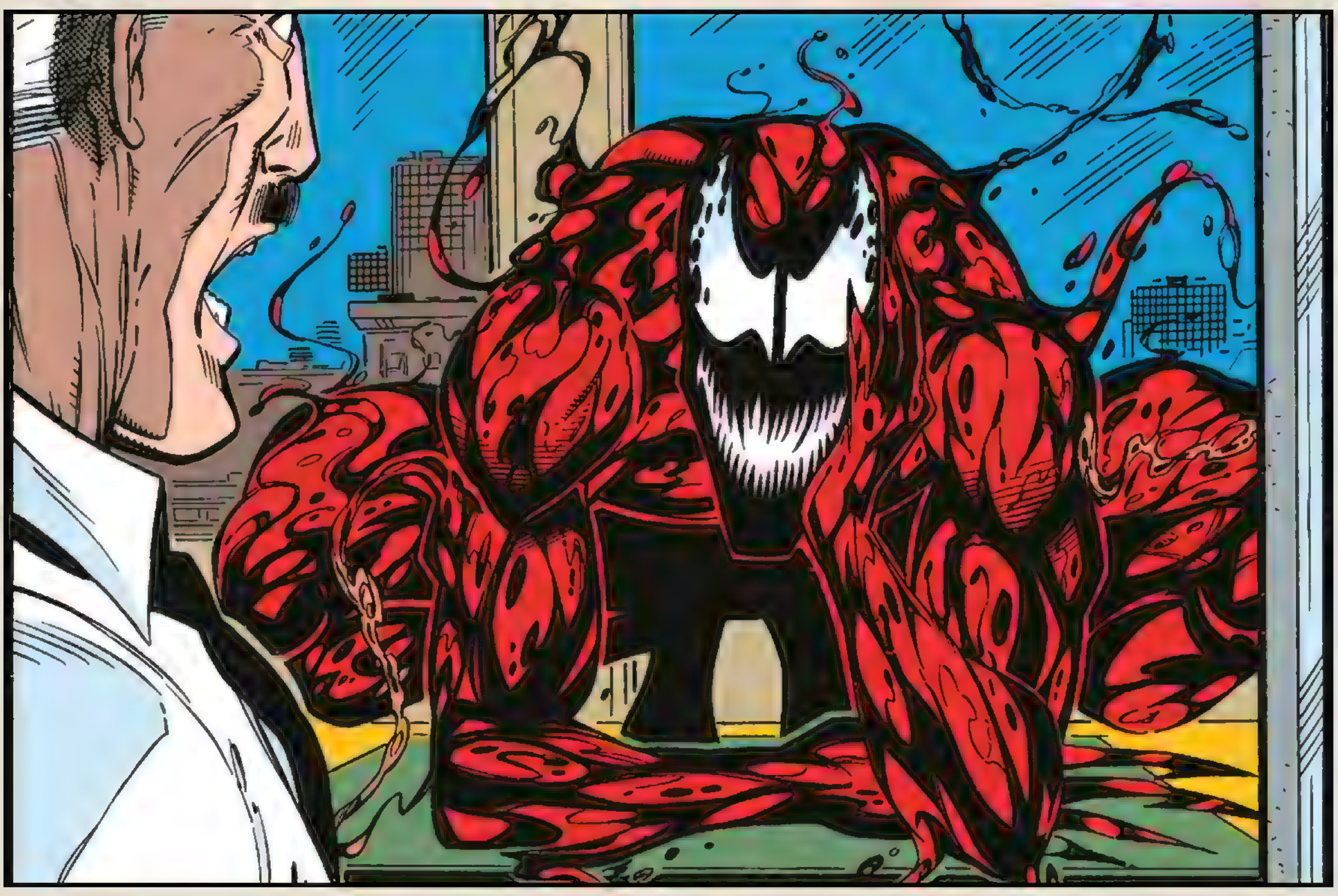
MAXIMUM CARNAGE

DAILY BUGLE EDITORIAL BY J. JONAH JAMESON (Transcribed by Clay McLeod Chapman)



Two days ago, I came face to face with the serial killer called Carnage in the Bugle offices, right here in New York. He demanded that I, in my position of power as the Editor In Chief of this paper, set a trap for the masked menaces Spider-Man and Venom. In that moment, nobody came to rescue me. There was no heroic entrance in the nick of time. Instead, I was face to face with a killer – and one question has been ringing in my mind ever since:

Who are our heroes? The ones in the capes traipsing down Park Avenue? The spandexed rejects reducing our streets to rubble every time they tussle?

Who are the real heroes of New York? I'll tell you who...

Don't look up to the skies.

Look down. Look next to you.

Look at me. Look at you.

Look at the meat-and-potatoes men and women of this city we all call home. It is the common man—the fella (and gal, of course) who wakes up at 5 a.m. Monday through Friday, who hops on the suffocating subway to schlep an hour or more just to get to their job and slog through that soul-crushing, mind-numbing nine-to-five, just to hop back on that same subway and fall asleep for a few hours and do it all over again.

But what truly makes these men and women—such as yours truly—the real heroes of this city is that we all have to do it under the constant barrage of battering breakneckers, nefarious ne'er-do-well and web-slinging psychopaths turning our once peaceful town upside down.

Why are we the heroes? Simple. Because we survive. We live in a constant state of war. A war we didn't ask for. The citizens of New York City are caught in the crossfire of those foul fiends who take to the skies and wreck our way of life while they wreck our homes, all under the guise of serving and protecting the populous at large.

Well, I'm here to tell you this... People of New York: It's time we take back this city. Take it back from the super heroes who aren't so super, who are holding our city hostage while we fight!

Fight for a little peace and quiet. Fight for the right to make a decent wage. Fight to get through the day without death or destruction coming from above or below.

I am calling upon the true heroes of New York. Not Spider-

Man. Not Captain America.

You, dear reader.

YOU.

One need only to look at the last 48 hours of—dare I say it—absolute carnage perpetuated in our streets to understand our city is under siege by the very loons who profess to be protecting us. Your tireless staff of roving reporters, including myself, have risked our necks, putting our own lives on the line to chronicle the carnage that continues to drench the avenues in blood.

Let me paint a morbid portrait for you, dear reader...

This week alone, yours truly witnessed a blistering breakout from Ravencroft Asylum. Those sinister malefactors who were purportedly protected behind lock and key were able to escape, including the likes of Cletus Kasady and Frances Louise Barrison, just to name a small few malfeasants—all thanks to a terrifying team-up that should send shudders down your spine:

SPIDER-MAN and VENOM.

Like chocolate and peanut butter, like Attila the Hun and Mussolini, like Count Dracula and Hitler himself, we now have this petrifying pair to contend with.

But don't think for an instant that it stops there... Oh no, dear reader, this was just the beginning of the week! And like any diligent documenter daring to follow the front line, I was there to cover these scheming miscreants as they continued their reign of terror!

Spider-Man and Venom somehow unleashed a psychic web of psychotic energy over the distressed denizens of our city. What kind of black magic these two terrors had concocted, I shall leave for the scientists or top government brass to detect, but its extrasensory puppeteering played we the people like we were all a bunch of Pinocchios. Don't think for an instant it's a mere coincidence that Spider-Man is always drawing his webs over our heads like he's pulling the strings on a city full of marionettes. Here is proof, living proof, of his master plan! Let me provide a mere taste of the psychic onslaught caused by none other than Spider-Man and his new venomous accomplice...

I watched on in horror as a mother suspended her own two children over a crowded street from the top of her apartment building. Her own flesh and blood. One child could not have been any older than 2; the other was still a newborn. Imagine what decayed state of mind that woman would have had to have been in to do such an awful thing.

I watched on as waiters were tossed out from the windows of the restaurants they worked at, simply because the customers didn't care for the service.

The dance floor at the Deep turned into a meat market. A club bloodbath!

Inmates besieging a police station, taking our city's finest and holding them hostage!

Downtown looting, uptown rioting, wilding in Central Park. Our city was under siege...from itself, held hostage by the psychic web of a certain eight-legged citizen slayer.

What brought this animosity out among the people of our sprawling metropolis? What could have caused such a delirious mob mentality to metastasize over the men and women of New York? What brought this rot to the Big Apple?

I'll tell you what, dear reader... It was a cackling carnival of chaos! Spider-Man in cahoots with Venom! Those foul fiends tried to use my own newspaper—the paper of the people!—as a cudgel against New York! But your brave band of reporters has dealt with the likes of Spider-Man before, and we did not flinch! If our newspaper is the battleground where Spidey and his accomplices wish to do combat, then so be it! They will not win! Do you know why? Because we here at the ***Bugle*** believe the pen is mightier than the sword! The printed word has always been more powerful than any web slung by that radical and his compatriots.

You don't mess with the ***Bugle***, Spider-Man...just like you don't mess with the men and women of New York City. The real heroes of the Big Apple. We don't need a skintight suit to prove it. We don't need to hide behind a mask. We're brave enough to show our faces, like real heroes do. Not like you.

What better way to prove my point than to attest to a bit of journalistic genius on my own part... Just when Spidey and Venom couldn't cut it, unleashing a cutthroat killer like Carnage upon our poor pedestrians, I—J. Jonah Jameson—took the ***Bugle*** by the horn and blew. That's right, dear reader, I utilized the printed word, our very own nuclear newspaper, and armed it—taking precious page space to set a trap for none other than that creepy Carnage. I was loath to do it, weaponizing words, but sometimes being the editor in chief means you have to make the hardest of hard decisions. The toughest of tough calls.

And I did, dear reader. Heaven help us all, I set the trap that would lure Carnage to his own death...right here in these very pages.

Did I second-guess myself? Not once.

Do I regret it? Not on your life.

Do I look outside my window here at the ***Bugle***, look upon the people below as they head off to their jobs, their families, their lives, and believe I made the right call? You bet I do.

It's all for you, New York. For you, dear reader.

So—this goes out to Spider-Man and the rest of his treasonous troop: When you come for the ***Bugle***, you come for the people. And the people won't stand for this type of tyranny any longer.

We're taking back our city.

Take *that*, Spider-Man.

THE DESTRUCTION OF ABSOLUTE CARNAGE IS BEHIND US—BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T ENJOY SOME MORE...CODEX VARIANTS!

SEE BELOW FOR A BREAKDOWN OF THE SYMBIOTE HOSTS—AND ARTISTS!—WHO GRACED OUR COVERS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER FOR OUR CODEX VARIANT PROGRAM!

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2

VENOM (MAC GARGAN)
BY LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30

GOBLIN CHILDE (NORMIE OSBORN)
BY GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI & ERICK ARCINIEGA

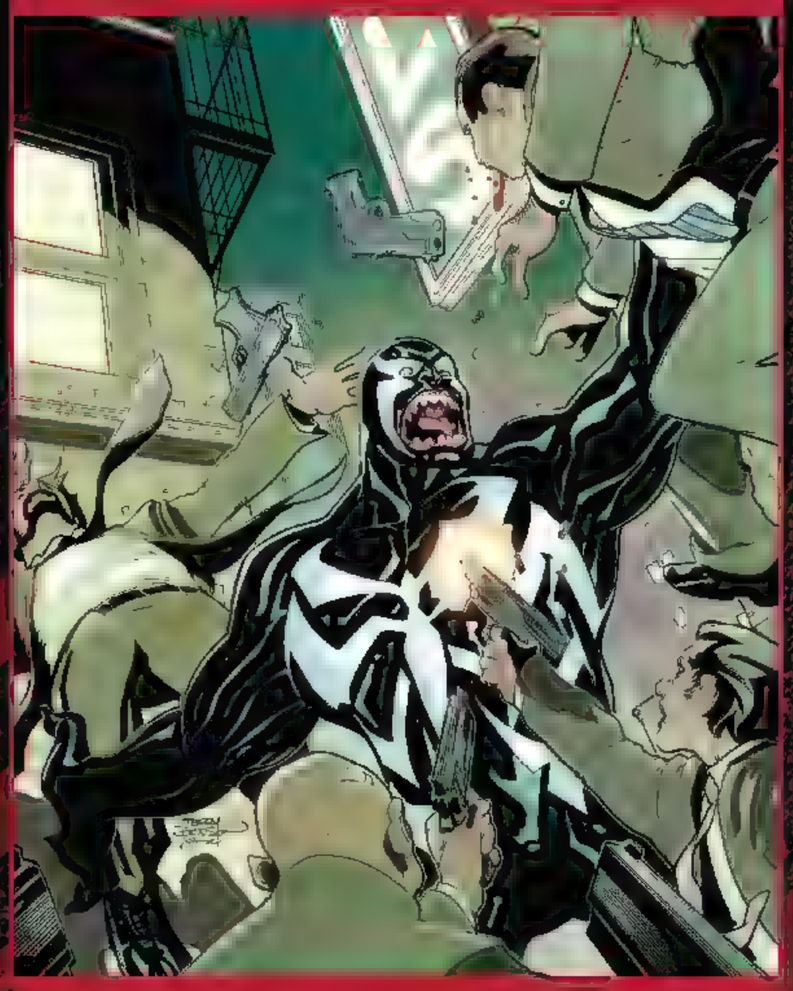
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK #1

VENOM HULK (BRUCE BANNER)
BY DALE KEOWN & JASON KEITH

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #3

DOPPELGANGER (MILES MORALES)
BY KIM JACINTO & RAIN BEREDO

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31



VENOM (ANGELO FORTUNATO)
BY TERRY & RACHEL DODSON

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4

ANTI-VENOM (EDDIE BROCK)
BY GERARDO ZAFFINO

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3

MANIA (PATRICIA ROBERTSON)
BY GERARDO SANDOVAL & JASON KEITH

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #3

SPIDER-CARNAGE (BEN REILLY)
BY MARK BAGLEY, ANDY OWENS & JASON KEITH

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1

CAPTAIN AMERICA & HAWKEYE
(STEVEN ROGERS & CLINT BARTON)
BY GERARDO SANDOVAL & JASON KEITH

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #3

MAN-WOLF (JOHN JAMESON)
BY BELEN ORTEGA & BRIAN REBER

VENOM #19

AGENT VENOM (FLASH THOMPSON)
BY TONY MOORE & DEAN WHITE

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: WEAPON PLUS #1

WOLVERINE (LOGAN)
BY MATTEO SCALERA & MORENO DINISIO

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5

DARK CARNAGE (CLETUS KASADY)
BY PAOLO RIVERA

VENOM #20

SLEEPER (EDDIE BROCK)
BY RYAN BODENHEIM & MICHAEL GARLAND

...AND THAT'S IT...FOR NOW! BE SURE TO HIT US UP AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF ABSOLUTE CARNAGE! MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT" AND YOU MIGHT JUST SEE YOUR LETTER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF VENOM!
KEEP IT REAL, YOU VENOMANIACS!

—DK

CLETUS' CLUBHOUSE

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WHAT AN ENDING! KNULL, THE GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES IS FREE, AND THERE'S NOTHIN' ANYONE CAN DO ABOUT IT!

Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea!

AT LAST! After 29 issues, 580 pages and nearly 11 months of hard work ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is a wrap, and there's only one thing left to say—THANK YOU!

First and foremost, thank YOU! Yes, YOU! You and all the other readers out there in Mighty Marveldom who stuck with us through this crazy romp! Everyone here at Venom HQ worked double time to get this eviscerating epic in your hands, and we hope you enjoyed it!

Thanks also to symbiotic storytellers across the whole event! If you missed any of our tie-ins, be sure to snag 'em while they're still in stock at your local shop! We tried to make sure that every tie-in told a complete story, and you never know which issues we might have slipped a clue for the future of Venom into!

But enough plugging (for now!)—this is the final letter column of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, so let's not waste another minute and get to your letters!

Dear Carnage Cut-ups,
I am 64 and so I come late to appreciation of things horror.

My main touchstone, recently, has been Stephen King's history of horror, called Danse Macabre (1981).

Part of King's thesis is that the genre breaks down into three types: horror (monsters, etc.), terror (serial killers) and just the plain old gross-out.
Not surprisingly the series ABSOLUTE CARNAGE has all three aspects rolled into one cool narrative.

Carnage is visibly gross. Even without his powers you would still not want him to touch you!

He's as gross a creature as they come!

And horror? Where do I have to explain that Carnage brings it all to "monster horror"?

In all of Marvel's 5,200 characters Carnage is the one most likely to invoke horror.

Finally, Carnage represents terror. He is as much a serial killer as Hannibal Lector.

His very presence on the page makes the reader recoil. In terror, I might add.

So congrats to all the writers working on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE—Spencer, Ewing, Tieri, Cates et al.

Horror, terror and the gross-out.

With ABSOLUTE CARNAGE you have hit a "Kingian" home run!

Rabbi Steven Lebow
Temple Kol Emeth
Marietta, GA

Thanks so much, Rabbi! That's some high praise, likening our little funny book to the work of one of the most prolific horror authors of all time, but we're more than happy to take it!

To everyone at Cletus' Clubhouse,
First off, I just want to say that I have read all but one ABSOLUTE CARNAGE issue that is out and I love it! I must have read the first issue around five times! Other than the first issue, I just want to point out some of the other issues I really enjoyed.
The first issue I would like to point out is ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2; I just love how Miles and the piece of symbiote he's infected with are fighting for control over his body and how, just like in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK, it shows what it might look like when you are bonded with a symbiote and how different it is when you're forced to wear one instead of willing choosing to bond with it.

The second issue I want to point out (so far) is ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1; I just loved reading the first DEADPOOL VS. CARNAGE series so I was very excited to read this! It also is probably the only tie-in that will still have humor in it and that's what I love about Deadpool...and that he is, according to Carnage, a "unicorn" which makes sense and is also hilarious. The final thing I liked about the issue is how Carnage just straight up says, "I just really hate that guy."

My third and final issue has got to be ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2. I was quite excited to see this character again and I am really excited to see if Scream will face off against Carnage! Now THAT is what I'm waiting for.

Lastly, I just wanted to thank the whole team writing these comics and I will try my best to collect them all!

#CarnageRules
Best Regards,
Sean from Minneapolis

Thanks so much for writing and being such a devoted Venomaniac, Sean! It always means a lot to everyone involved in the books to hear from readers like you, who read each and every week—it lets us know that we're doin' something right! We've (clearly) got some crazy stuff in the works for the symbiotes of the Marvel Universe; hope you like where we're headed!

Hey ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,
I just read my copy of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3, and oh my days, it was amazing. I was shocked to see the Hulk bond with the symbiote and I also can't believe he's never worn one before. Also the tie-in issues fit perfectly in place, explaining the unknown gap of other characters between issues. Overall it was INCREDIBLE. One question though: How long have you been building to this point?

Sincerely,
Nicholas R.

Hi, Nicholas! Thanks so much for your letter! Glad you didn't see the Hulk twist coming. Man, that reveal was TRICKY to keep secret. Glad it worked out!

We get that question a lot, about how long we've been building to this story, and the shortest answer is that we've been headed here since the very beginning of Donny's run. The bones of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE were in the very first pitch Donny ever sent my way, so everything we've been doing—not only in VENOM, but in our supporting series like WEB OF VENOM, as well—has been

building to this story…and the next one, so keep reading!

To the ABSOLUTE CARNAGE team that is doing my favorite book, SCREAM!
Loving the story and the amazing art, oh and did I mention the art? It's breathtaking and I love the characters from SCREAM and am loving the story. Scream has real spunk and flair and is not afraid to hold her ground. Congrats to all, I am on board.

Longtime Marvel reader for close to 50 years,
Damien A.
Millfield, Australia

Oh, man! A letter all the way from Australia! Thanks so much for reading and for writing, Damien! Scream is one of my favorite characters too and, just wait, we've got BIG plans for the Daughter of Venom!

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,
I just wanted to thank you for giving us this incredible event. I've been reading comics since Christmas, but this series got me more into comics. The artwork is just so clean and gorgeous and it really fits the tone of the entire series. Right now, I have ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1 and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3 that I'm about to read and I can't wait to see what will happen next after them. I'm certainly looking forward to how the series will end, so keep up the good work!

J. Silva

And we hope we ended with style, J.! Thanks for your letter!

Dear Cletus' Clubhouse,
I've just finished issue ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4. Wow!!!

Donny Cates is absolutely smashing it with the ABSOLUTE CARNAGE series—I'm hooked! I loved how they've branched it off and tied in other characters.

I loved Spidey growing up and the symbiotes. Venom is my favorite character in the Marvel Universe, but the truth is there would be no Venom without Carnage. I'm loving this series and when issue #5 concludes…there's gonna be Carnage!

From Tom H.

Tom H.?

TOM H.?!

I can't believe it—we've gotten a letter from SPIDER-MAN himself. The one and only Tom Holland, cleverly hiding his identity from us by only using his last initial. Thought he could pull a fast one on us, but NOT THIS TIME, Spidey! HAH!

Hey, while you're here, can I have your autograph? Also are you going to be in the sequel to VEN—what's that?
Hold on a moment, reader.
…

I've just been informed by Danny that this is not actually a letter from noted MCU film actor and story spoiler Tom Holland, so I feel foolish. I'm sorry for the case of mistaken identity, Tom, and for those of you keeping score at home, the tally is:

Party Pooper Danny: 1. Tom Holland
Superfan Devin: 0

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Crew,
I know that I've said before that ABSOLUTE CARNAGE was awesome from the very first issue, but #4 just blew my mind. This story just gets better and better and it shows no sign of going downhill. The artwork with all the red also sets the tone for the comic very well.

This last issue has gone from hope, to lack thereof, to hope again. I've written Carnage fanfic stories, but this is taking my expectations to a whole new level. This has been a great Marvel event these past couple months, and I cannot wait until the final issue comes out. You guys haven't let me down, so I know you guys will not disappoint.

Sincerely,
Philip O.

Thanks for reading, Philip! Hoping our grand finale lived up to your expectations!

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,
When I first started reading this series, I was absolutely blown away by those epic moments and the epic art styles. I love how Donny Cates is treating Eddie and Cletus as characters so far. I want to see more of Eddie and his son's relationship. They were one of the best things about this series. But anyways, just finished reading issue #3, and once again I'm blown away by those epic moments (especially at the end!) The series have been so awesome, and the characters are handled really well so far. I can't wait to see what else you guys have in store for us for the next issue. Donny Cates is a BEAST.

Kazi

Dear Venomized Marvel Editors and Staff,
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is the most crazy, metal and insane Carnage story so far. This story definitely makes me worry about Eddie and those Codex users because Cletus as a Venomized god is scary to think about.

Luckily, the symbiote took over the Hulk (yeah, that was super crazy!) so let's hope Venomized Hulk did some damage.

Thank you all for bring this story to us Venom fans! This definitely helps me get thru the stress of college coursework. Keep it coming and never forget: We are Venom!

Tyler. O
Winona, MN

Hah! I've said it before, Tyler: Comics have always been one of the best things around for when I'm trying to deal with stress! I'm so glad to hear that they're helping you the same way they helped me, even if it's for a short escape to a world full of symbiotes and celestials for a few minutes.

Hi,
My name is Pedro, I am 13 years old and I've been a Marvel fan since I saw the first Iron Man movie. But when I started searching for more Marvel characters, I found Carnage and I immediately liked him. His look, his story… I really don't know why, but let's keep going.

A year ago I found a Spider-Man comic at my local mall and really enjoyed it but did not buy more. When I found out that Carnage was getting a new comics series I thought, "Maybe it's a good way to really get into the Marvel Comics world."

Let me tell you, I've finished reading ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3 and every time I finish an issue I think the art is amazing, the story is amazing and I really need to get the next issue—and fast!

So after this long message I just wanna say, thanks for the great storyline and for giving me a great time!

Fan from Portugal,
Pedro C.

This is one of my favorite letters yet, Pedro! Nothing makes any of us here at the House of Ideas happier than when we learn that the stories we work on each and every month have introduced someone new to comic books! Thanks so much for giving ABSOLUTE CARNAGE a chance, and I hope you'll stick with us through what's next.

That's going to be it for this one, Venomaniacs—but don't worry! Our next issue, VENOM #20, goes on-sale in just TWO WEEKS! And, believe me when I say, you won't want to miss it.

Carnage Rules!
Devin

5 YEARS EXPERIENCE

From Baaldur, with love...

GLORITH

ADAM & AL